



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shuman Center Employee Landis “Luke” Morris Named Exemplary Employee

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Manager William D. McKain, CPA announced today that the County has presented its Exemplary Employee Award to Landis “Luke” Morris, a five-year employee who is a food service worker at Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Morris was recognized for his professionalism and exceptional customer service, and was surprised today with the award at his workplace by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager William D. McKain.

“I often say that our employees are our greatest assets, and that is particularly true in the case of Landis Morris,” said Fitzgerald. “While his position in the county isn’t directly responsible for the youth at Shuman, he has taken it upon himself to learn about each of them, provide a kind or encouraging word, and to ensure that they feel cared for while they are there. That makes a difference in the lives of these youth, and that Landis has taken that opportunity to show how much they are cared for is absolutely worthy of this recognition.”

Morris, of Wilksburg, was nominated by the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center Director, Earl Hill. In the nomination, Director Hill wrote:

“Mr. Morris consistently goes out of his way to talk to residents as they pass through the serving line for meals. He is always offering a positive word to residents, while encouraging them to do well. His happy demeanor and fine sense of humor make him a delight to work with; he takes pride in his work, looks forward to learning, engages fully to meet challenges, and follows through with his commitments.”

Mr. Morris began his employment with Allegheny County on March 15, 2010. While he has four children of his own, he views his work at Shuman as another opportunity to teach life lessons to the residents there. He firmly believes the kids can learn more than he did when he was their age and that every child deserves an opportunity to do better.

Mr. Morris was presented with a joint County proclamation from the County Executive and County Council.

The Honorable Frank J. Lucchino has a long and distinguished career serving the citizens of Allegheny County. For 20 years, he was the county’s elected Controller (1980-2000) before being elected to the Court of Common Pleas and has served on the bench since 2000. Judge Lucchino is currently a Senior Judge on the Court. The Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an employee or employee group who has exceeded all expectations, made a significant impact upon the county, and has represented the county admirably in his or her actions.

“The staff and leadership at Shuman have important responsibilities, and rewards, in providing services to the residents entrusted to their care,” said McKain. “For many of these youth, Shuman is a place where there is structure and basic necessities, but thanks to individuals such as Landis, they also know that they

have folks who care for them, which can make all the difference. Employees like Landis are the definition of a public servant and we are proud to have him at the county, and Shuman.”

The Exemplary Employee Award is presented periodically throughout the year in recognition of exceptional achievements by a county employee or employee group. Nominations can be submitted in writing or online at <http://www.allegHENYcounty.us/manager/award.aspx>.

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